

UNIFIED MESSAGING WITH SEPARATE
MEDIA COMPONENT STORAGE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a system, method and computer program product for providing unified messaging using separate storage of media components. The present invention allows for more efficient storage and retrieval of messages. Consider a message sent from a second user to a first user over a network. The message is received by a first server. The first server stores the media component of the message on a mass storage device. The first server also stores on an email server a header, including information about the message, and a reference to the corresponding media component of the message stored on the mass storage device. Upon retrieval of a stored message by the first user, the email server is queried via the first server. Subsequently, the email server provides to the first user, via the first server: the header, or non-media component of the message, and the reference to the corresponding media component of the message stored on the mass storage device. The reference can then be used by the first user to retrieve from the mass storage device the corresponding media component of the message. Subsequently, the first user can view the entire message.

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